BILL: S2019-SB6
TITLE: Bylaws Reform
SPONSORS: John Schurer, Sophomore Senator; Masud Tyree Lewis, First-Year Senator; Travis Sanderson, Senior Senator; Rehan Zafar, Brainerd Senator
DATE: May 5, 2019

Renaming of Cabinet Committees

Whereas, cabinet committees should be aptly named for their function;

Therefore, be it resolved…

That, **Student Organizations Oversight** be renamed **Student Organizations** throughout the Bylaws and Constitution.

That, **Student Educational Affairs** be renamed **Academic Affairs** throughout the Bylaws and Constitution.

That, **Student Health & Wellness** be renamed **Health & Wellness** throughout the Bylaws and Constitution.

That, **Institutional Diversity** be renamed **Institutional Diversity, Equity & Inclusion** throughout the Bylaws and Constitution.

Repeal Cabinet Committee Liaisons

Whereas, senate liaisons to the cabinet have historically been ineffective;

Whereas, the cabinet should answer directly to the president;

Whereas, the senate liaisons create an unnecessary hierarchy within cabinet committees;

Therefore, be it resolved…

That, the following clause is removed from all cabinet committees: “A Class Senator, excluding First-Year Senators, shall sit on this committee as the official liaison to the Senate. At least one Senator will be appointed to this committee by the SGA President by their first official Senate meeting.”

Purpose of the Campus Life Committee

Whereas, the existing structure of the SGA Social Affairs Committee is unclear and renders it redundant;

Whereas, the existing bylaws of the SGA Social Affairs Committee is unclear and offers no direction or purpose;

Whereas, The SGA Social Affairs Committee is distant from the SGA-funded activities body, the Middlebury College Activities Board, limiting its, and SGA’s, input in major social activities on campus;

Whereas, The SGA Social Affairs Committee is distant from the SGA-funded social houses, limiting its, and SGA’s, input in key aspects of Social Life at Middlebury College;

Therefore, be it resolved,

That, Section III (O) shall read as follows: “(P) The Director of Campus Life oversees the technological and archival needs of the SGA, including but not limited to MiddCourses and the SGA website. Additionally, they are tasked with providing tips to the SGA in regards to productivity and organizational tools.”

That, Section V (B) (10) shall read as follows:
“(10) Campus Life Committee
(a) Description and responsibilities
The Campus Life Committee shall consider and discuss matters related to social life within the student community. The committee shall also make proposals and work with the relevant administrative bodies to improve social life on campus for all students. The Committee shall meet with the college administrator main point of contact at the time on a monthly basis to check-in and to provide student feedback regarding ongoing and future initiatives. The college administrator main point of contact shall be determined by the SGA President. The Committee is responsible for

coordination of social life on campus, particularly of all large social groups that are SGA-funded including Social Houses, the management and creation of systems that improve social life on campus, acting as the liaison between the Department of Public Safety and the SGA and is the liaison to the Student Activities and Student Life offices.
(b) Membership
(i) The Director of Campus Life shall chair the committee.
(ii) The Director of Campus Life and the Director of Membership shall jointly appoint members of the committee.
(iii) All committee members' terms expire at the end of the academic year.
(iv) A SGA Class Senator, excluding First-Year Senators, shall sit on this committee as the official liaison to the Senate. At least one Senator will be appointed to this committee by the SGA President by their first official Senate meeting."

Creation of Technology Committee

Whereas, the existing cabinet committees do not serve to advance the technological initiatives and needs of the SGA;

Therefore, be it resolved…

That, under Section III (P), a new section "Director of Technology" be added.
That, Section III (P) shall read as follows: "The Director of Technology chairs the Technology Committee, overseeing the technological and archival needs of the SGA, including but not limited to MiddCourses and the SGA website. Additionally, they are tasked with providing tips to the SGA in regards to productivity and organizational tools."
That, under Section V (B), a new section (11) Technology Committee be added.
That, Section V (B) (11) shall read as follows:
"(11) Technology Committee
(a) Description and responsibilities
The Technology Committee executes the technological and archival needs of the SGA, including but not limited to MiddCourses and the SGA website. Additionally, they are tasked with providing tips to the SGA in regards to productivity and organizational tools.
(b) Membership
(i) The Director of Technology shall chair the committee.

(ii) The Director of Technology and the Director of Membership shall jointly appoint members of the committee.
(iii) All committee members' terms expire at the end of the academic year.
(iv) A SGA Class Senator, excluding First-Year Senators, shall sit on this committee as the official liaison to the Senate. At least one Senator will be appointed to this committee by the SGA President by their first official Senate meeting."

Creation of Religious and Spiritual Life Committee

Whereas, religious and spiritual life have been historically neglected by administrative bodies at Middlebury College;

Whereas, religious and spiritual life forms a significant bloc of the identities of many individuals on campus;

Whereas, the Scott Center for Religious and Spiritual Life and the Student Government Association (SGA) do not currently possess formal association;

Whereas, an effective representation of students requires addressing all aspects of student concerns and student needs;

Therefore, be it resolved…

That, under Section III (Q), a new section "Director of Religious and Spiritual Life" be added.
That, Section III (Q) shall read as follows: "The Director of Religious and Spiritual Life chairs the Religious and Spiritual Life Committee, working with Scott Center for Religious and Spiritual Life and relevant organizations for spiritual representation and development to ensure sensitivity and meet the needs of students on the basis of spiritual beliefs and to enhance inclusive social and cultural experiences on campus."

That, under Section V (B), a new section (12) Religious and Spiritual Life Committee be added.
That, Section V (B) (12) shall read as follows:
"(12) Religious and Spiritual Life Committee
(a) Description and responsibilities
The Religious and Spiritual Life Committee shall consider and discuss matters related to religious and spiritual life within the student community. The committee shall also make proposals and work with the relevant administrative bodies to improve religious

and spiritual life on campus for all students. The Committee shall meet with the Scott Center for Religious and Spiritual Life on a monthly basis to check-in and to provide student feedback regarding ongoing and future initiatives.
(b) Membership
(i) The Directors of Religious and Spiritual Life shall chair the committee.
(ii) The Directors of Religious and Spiritual Life shall jointly appoint members of the committee.
(iii) All committee members' terms expire at the end of the academic year.

Creation of Dining Affairs Committee

Whereas, The SGA currently has limited official oversight of Dining and Dining Services;

Whereas, there exists only an informal Dining Committee, chaired by the Dining Services team;

Whereas, this informal committee, though effective in its purpose, limits the SGA from having real-time responses to Dining Concerns;

Whereas, programs such as 10 O'Clock Ross cannot be continued to be managed by senators and should instead be managed by a designated committee;

Therefore, be it resolved,

That, under Section III (R), a new section "Director of Dining Affairs" be added.
That, Section III (R) shall read as follows: "The Director of Dining Affairs chairs the Dining Affairs Committee and is responsible for working with Dining Services to maintain and improve dining on campus, including advising dining retail locations like The Grille and MiddExpress. Additionally, they are responsible for the management of all SGA-led dining initiatives, including 10 O'Clock Ross and To-Go Container Programs, and the operations of these initiatives will be determined by their respective operational policies where applicable."
That, under Section V (B), a new section (13) Dining Affairs Committee be added.
That, Section V (B) (13) shall read as follows:
"(13) Dining Affairs Committee
(a) Description and responsibilities

The Dining Affairs Committee shall consider and discuss matters related to dining offerings, needs, accessibility, and awareness. The scope of this committee encompasses the three dining halls and all of the dining retail locations on campus, such as The Grille, Crossroads Café, MiddXpress, and Wilson Café. The Committee shall communicate closely with Middlebury College Dining Staff and other key stakeholders, such as MiddCatering and the custodial staff.
(b) Membership
(i) The Director of Dining Affairs shall chair the committee.
(ii) The Director of Dining Affairs and the Director of Membership shall jointly appoint members of the committee.
(iii) All committee members' terms expire at the end of the academic year.
(iv) A SGA Class Senator, excluding First-Year Senators, shall sit on this committee as the official liaison to the Senate. At least one Senator will be appointed to this committee by the SGA President by their first official Senate meeting."

SGA Finance Committee

Whereas, the SGA Finance Committee does not function as other cabinet committees;

Whereas, the SGA Finance Committee responds to the Senate, as with other Special Standing Committees;

Whereas, the current distance from the SGA Senate results in a dearth of financial knowledge;

Therefore, be it resolved,

That, Section V (B) (2) is moved to Section V (A) (8).

That, Section III (D) shall read as follows:
"(D) Treasurer
The Treasurer chairs the Finance Committee and oversees its work. The Treasurer is appointed by the President, with the prior advice and consent of the Student Senate. The Treasurer serves as the liaison between the President, the Senate, and the Finance Committee. The Treasurer maintains the SGA budget, and prepares and presents the mid-year report and the annual budget to the Senate and attends weekly Senate meetings as a non-voting member. The Treasurer does not need to attend

Cabinet meetings. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all Finance Committee decisions, minutes, and financial statements. The Treasurer shall have had prior experience on the Finance Committee."

Finance Committee Budget Transparency

Whereas, all student organizations on campus are funded by the proceeds of the Student Activity Fee, paid by all students;

Whereas, many students have expressed concern about inequity regarding the funding of some organizations compared to others, without having access to actual budgets;

Therefore, be it resolved,

That, the current budget for every student organization is published on the webpage of the SGA Finance Committee and is made accessible for all students to view;

That, all available historical budgets for student organizations are published on the webpage of the SGA Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

John Schurer, Sophomore Senator
Masud Tyree Lewis, First-Year Senator
Travis Sanderson, Senior Senator
Rehan Zafar, Brainerd Senator